

cheaper student loans, and a more secure future. It would deny the people of Michigan, and all Americans, a brighter future.

TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION

(Mr. FAZIO of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, truth really is stranger than fiction.

These budget negotiations are beginning to remind me of a movie that came out a few years ago.

You might remember it. A television weatherman wakes up in the twilight zone. He finds himself living the same day over and over and over again.

It was an amusing premise for a movie.

But, for the last month, the American people have been waking up every morning to the same budget nightmare. Only it is not a nightmare, it is inescapable reality.

It is a budget crafted by Speaker GINGRICH. Everyday the American people wake to confront the same Republican budget, the same deep cuts in education, in Medicare, and environmental programs.

Its a monument to misplaced priorities. They have put tax breaks for the wealthy first, and the interests of working families last.

Fortunately, a group of Democrats have put forward a sensible, 7-year budget—a budget that offers a path out of the twilight zone of posturing and positioning that now consumes Washington.

We owe it to the American people to take a look at this budget—a Democratic budget that protects our priorities and achieves real, concrete deficit reduction.

□ 1030

MISSING INGREDIENTS IN BUDGET PLAN

(Mr. TATE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, when I talk to people at home, their biggest fear is that their children will not have the same future as they have had. One way to change that is to balance the budget so their children can have more jobs and more opportunities.

The Republicans have come out with a plan. The President says, "Well, I am for a balanced budget plan." Well, where is his plan?

We have come out with a reasonable plan that increases education and job training and student loan programs by \$25.7 billion over the next 7 years; Medicare spending by \$724 billion over what we spent over the last 7 years; a \$40.6 billion increase for veterans and welfare programs. All the important pro-

grams are increasing, but yet my friends across the aisle keep saying these are cuts.

That is incredible. Not only is the truth missing, Mr. Speaker, but also the President's plan to balance the budget.

CALL FOR ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT ON SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

(Mr. WISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House quite properly voted unanimously for lobby reform. Last week it voted for Speaker GINGRICH's amendment, which I supported, to ban trips and dinners and even T-shirts. Why? To restore public credibility in this Congress.

But now the front pages of today's newspapers say that the Federal Elections Commission is filing a civil suit against GOPAC, the political action committee set up and run by Speaker GINGRICH. One concern: A \$10,000 check and a letter objecting to a regulatory problem.

Let me get this straight. No trips, no T-shirts, no ball caps, and yet the same person who voted against requiring the Ethics Committee to give a status report after many months of investigation of other charges against the Speaker will say that they stand up for reform. If ball caps are bad, how about \$10,000 checks in the mail? Or can you accept a T-shirt if it is wrapped around a check to GOPAC?

If you voted yesterday saying you were cleaning up Government, you must vote today to have the Ethics Committee give a status report on what cleaning up it is doing.

REPUBLICANS PROMISE BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. BASS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, we hear all this Chicken Little talk about how the end of the world is coming because of what the Republicans are doing to save this country for our children and our children's children. We hear that we are increasing spending on defense and we are making draconian cuts in social programs.

Let me just advise you that under the Republicans' plan defense spending will go down \$146.8 billion less than spending over the last 7 years, welfare up \$386 billion over spending in the last 7 years. The total increase for the Republican budget is \$2.5 trillion over the next 7 years.

When I was running for election last year people said to me, "Let's freeze Federal spending. Isn't freezing Federal spending a good way to balance the budget?" Well, we are not freezing Federal spending, we are increasing Federal spending substantially.

I think it is time that we laid the facts on the line here. We have a plan that will save this country for the next generation and the generation after that.

AGAINST REPUBLICAN BUDGET PLAN

(Mr. NADLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget plan cuts to ribbons programs that are crucial to the development of our Nation's youth and the security of our Nation's seniors. Head Start, the summer youth employment program, and student loan programs are shredded. Medicare and Medicaid are bled by \$450 billion, doubling Medicare premiums and shredding the level of medical care, and forcing millions of families to choose whether to mortgage or sell their homes to pay for their parents' stays in nursing homes.

Yet while the sledgehammer falls on the heads of millions of middle- and low-income Americans and all our seniors and children, the Republicans want to eliminate all Federal income taxes on profitable multinational corporations, and they want to give people earning \$350,000 a year a \$10,000 tax break.

I do not support balancing our Nation's budget in this manner, on the backs of our seniors, the middle class, our children, and the poor. I commend the President for insisting on the wellness of seniors, children, and the environment, and I urge the President to continue to stand firm against the Republican budget agenda.

THE PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY

(Mr. FUNDERBURK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, in order to judge Bill Clinton's policy in Bosnia, remember this President's track record.

First, he has opposed every legitimate use of American power for the last 30 years. When we deployed American troops to protect our national security interests, one thing was certain, Bill Clinton opposed it. He opposed it in Grenada, Panama, and the Persian Gulf.

Second, he turned over direction of our foreign affairs to the whims of the United Nations high command. He turned a humanitarian mission in Somalia into a \$2 billion nightmare and wasted the lives of our finest soldiers in pursuit of something called nation building.

He then turned his attention to Haiti and used American troops to restore Aristide to power. Well, Aristide says he wants to stay in power and we have spent about \$3 billion making Haiti a

virtual province of the United States. And the White House calls that a foreign policy triumph.

So, Mr. Speaker, the next time you are asked about Bosnia, take a look at where Bill Clinton has been and if that does not frighten you I do not know what will.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE PATRICIA SCHROEDER

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to one of the most principled and courageous Members of Congress—I speak of none other than my dear friend, colleague, and mentor, PAT SCHROEDER.

PAT is not only an inspiration and role model for me, she is also a shining example of what all women and people of conscience should strive to be. Over the years, PAT has stood by her beliefs and the beliefs of our party, even when it was unpopular to do so. She is more than just a leader, she is the moral compass of our generation.

Mr. Speaker, PAT SCHROEDER came to Congress as a defender of those in our society with no voices and no lobbies. I am proud to say that she will be leaving Congress still untainted by the system, true to her beliefs.

Thank you, PAT, for your service to our country, and thank you for making the women of America proud. Things just will not be the same without you.

POLITICS AS USUAL

(Mr. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, for months my Republican colleagues have come to the well of this House and said their top priority is to balance the budget. That is good rhetoric but most Americans would be surprised to find out if you look at it, the Republican budget increases the deficit in each of the next 2 years.

Let me repeat that for you. The Republican budget increases the deficit in each of the next 2 years. What they do is they give tax breaks for wealthy Americans this year and say, "Trust us, 3, 4, 5 years from now, we will make those tough spending cuts." That is politics as usual, and it is irresponsible.

I call the Republican budget plan the dessert budget. It is like a person saying, "I care so much about going on a diet that I am going to start out with a dessert on the first day of my diet and have a hot fudge sundae." That does not work in diets and it is not going to work in deficits.

My friends, Republicans must decide if they care more about pushing their rhetoric of balancing the budget or whether they care more about giving tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans.

GOP CUTS AFFECT CHRISTMAS

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, only 25 more shopping days until Christmas. All around the country, children wonder what goodies they will unwrap. Now, kids, what do you think you will get?

Well, I hope you do not have your heart set on a college education. The Republicans cut student loans, so a diploma is going to be pretty hard to come by this year.

How about a clean environment? Well, I hope that is not too high on your list either.

Even if you do not find a lump of coal in your stocking, you will find more coal—and soot and ash—in the air you breathe and the water you drink.

Why? Because the GOP had to give a present to their big business buddies. After all—those lobbyists gave them some very nice campaign checks.

And, sorry, we cannot go "over the river and through the woods to Grandma's house." You see, when the Republicans scrapped Medicare and Medicaid, Grandma had to get rid of her house.

So kids, load up on all the candy canes you can find—it is not too nutritious, but if the GOP takes away your school lunch, that might be the only thing to eat this season.

REPUBLICANS COMMITTED TO BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. LINDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, in 1952 the Federal Government taxed the American family 4 percent of its income. In 1995, the Federal Government taxes the average American family 24 percent.

In 1950, the Federal Government spent a little over 10 percent of the gross national product. Today the government spends about 25 percent of the gross national product.

In 1950, the Federal deficit was about \$3 billion. This year it is around \$200 billion.

Mr. Speaker, is there a trend here?

Bigger Government, more and more debt, and less take home pay for the American family. Well, the time has come to turn these trends around. This Republican-led Congress is committed to balancing the budget. We recognize that Government is too big and taxes too much. The Balanced Budget Act of 1995 represents an end to the tax and spend policies that have produced a huge Government and \$5 trillion debt. It also says to America's families: you earned it, you keep it, it is yours in the first place.

RELEASE CHINESE POLITICAL PRISONER

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, this House of Representatives has for a long time now been a bulwark of support for pro-Democratic reform in China. So it is very sad for me today to rise and call upon my colleagues to join in calling upon the Chinese Government to immediately release Wei Jing Shing.

As many Members know, Wei Jing Shing is the father of the prodemocracy movement in China. He was arrested at the time of the prodemocracy wall activities and served mostly in solitary confinement for about 15 years. He was released when China wanted to get the Olympics.

He was rearrested 6 months later for giving interviews to the press as well as meeting with the Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights John Shattuck. After 20 months he was held incommunicado. Last week he was charged with trying to overthrow the government, a capital offense punishable by death.

It is very important that the United States of America, the Clinton administration, and this Congress speak out loudly and clearly to the Chinese Government and join with the 15 dissidents who risked their own personal safety to call for Wei's release, a commutation of the charges brought against him and, if he goes to trial, a fair and open trial for Wei Jing Shing.

PRIORITIES

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, Republicans passed a balanced budget with specific plans that reflect the priorities of the American people. However, the President has said we did not increase spending as much as he would like. So we asked him to tell us exactly how much more he wants to spend and where exactly he is going to get the money from: Higher taxes or other cuts. So far he has refused to tell us.

Once the President comes forward with his priorities and how much more he wants to spend, I am confident negotiations will move quickly toward a balanced budget.

NOTHING COULD BE MORE CLEAR

(Mr. LEWIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the cat is out of the bag. According to articles in papers across the country, Speaker GINGRICH's personal political slush fund—GOPAC—was illegally providing funds and resources to Federal candidates in 1990. And lo and behold, who appears to have been the primary recipient of such funds, Speaker GINGRICH himself.

All of this has come to light in a lawsuit brought against GOPAC by the Federal Election Commission. Among